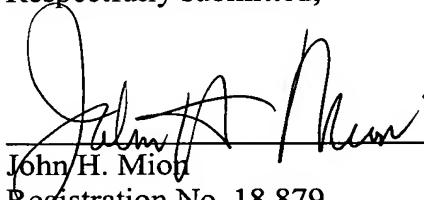


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby both ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action and eliminating the need for a multiple dependent claim fee.

Respectfully submitted,



John H. Mion
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 21, 2005